



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MONTH

- WHEREAS: More than 2.5 million of Georgia's citizens are under of age of 18; and
- WHEREAS: The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow; and
- WHEREAS: Children are Georgia's most precious asset and investing in their future is essential to preparing for the future of our state; and
- WHEREAS: Each child requires a strong academic foundation to reach his or her fullest potential. Numerous studies show that the brain experiences its most rapid period of development during the formative years from birth to age five, and it is important that we provide a strong, enduring foundation for Georgia's young minds before age 18; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia is committed to providing all children with the academic resources and educational support needed to succeed both at school and in the workforce. Georgia's high school graduation rate has risen in five straight years, from 67.4 percent in 2011 to 79.2 percent in 2016; and
- WHEREAS: Parents, siblings, grandparents, loved ones, teachers, neighbors and many other members of the community may all have opportunities to contribute to the development and well-being of a child. Effective schools and safe communities are important for each new day of exploration and revelation as children encounter new parts of the world; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2017 as CHILDREN AND YOUTH MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 31st day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF